

Gateway Clean Air Program

On April 5, 2000, the Gateway Clean Air Program's 12 new state-of-the-art emissions testing stations opened their doors, ready to begin the newest job in the fight for cleaner air quality in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Some motorists were already receiving mailed notices that their very clean-running vehicles had passed an unobtrusive roadside test called RapidScreen.

Along with more stringent emission controls on industrial sources, an improved vehicle emission inspection and maintenance program was crucial to the state's plan to bring the area into compliance with the air quality health standards of the Clean Air Act.

In February 1999, a contract was signed with Environmental Systems Products (ESP Missouri), the nation's largest vehicle emissions testing contractor, to build and operate the test stations under the state's oversight.

Missouri's contract with ESP Missouri calls for most of the 1.2 million vehicles of the St. Louis area to receive an emissions test every two years. Even-year vehicles are being tested in even-numbered years and odd-year vehicles will be tested in odd-numbered years, except in Franklin County, where an annual basic idle test is required. The two newest model-year vehicles are

RapidScreen

One Second is All it Takes

RapidScreen is a convenient option under the Gateway Clean Air Program that allows motorists to pass the new emissions test without visiting an emissions station. Special infrared and ultraviolet light technology is used to take an unobtrusive "snapshot" of exhaust emissions while vehicles are driven on streets and highways. This new technology has proven to be effective for on-road identification of very clean vehicles. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the St. Louis program is the first program in the country to employ "remote sensing" to screen such a

large number of vehicles. As a result of Missouri's initial success with RapidScreen, other states are beginning to look at using this kind of technology to make their own test programs more convenient.

Motorists who receive two successive clean records within 12 months before their registration month are notified by mail. They can then call or send in their test fees. The Gateway Clean Air Program has been designed so that about 40 percent of vehicles won't even have to go to a station. The RapidScreen component of the program rewards those people who maintain their vehicles extremely well, allowing them to skip a trip to the test station.

You've Passed!

The vehicle listed below has license plates that will expire next month. An emissions test is required before the license plate can be renewed. **The vehicle below was remotely tested or screened and has passed its emissions test.** You should redeem this notice by following the instructions below.

To skip a trip to an emissions station and receive your emissions sticker
Call toll-free 24 hrs:
1-888-748-6-Air (247)

Have this notice and your credit card with you when you call. Enter the RapidScreen number printed in the blue box below, and your credit card information when prompted. It's as easy as that, and your emissions sticker will be sent to you by mail in about fourteen business days. If you no longer own the vehicle described, please disregard this notice.

This notice cannot be used to register your vehicle. This notice expires on the date printed in the blue box with your RapidScreen number. If you do not send in payment by that time, you will need to visit an emissions test station to have your

www.gatewaycleanair.com

Or mail this reply card with your payment

Using the included envelope, mail your credit card information, check or money order* payable to the Gateway Clean Air Program plus this portion of the notice to:

RapidScreen Return Center
P.O. Box 1034
St. Charles, MO 63302-1034

Charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card No.: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

*If paying by check or money order, please write your license plate number on the check or money order.



Make: _____
Model Year: _____
Model: _____
Plate Number: _____
VIN: _____

Rapid Screen #:	Due Date:
_____	_____
Confirmation Code:	

Remove reply card at perforations

exempted from testing. As of Dec. 31, 2000, ESP Missouri had tested 567,343 vehicles through a combination of fixed stations, mobile vans and RapidScreen.

This program is the corner-stone of the state's efforts to reduce ground-level **ozone**, a harmful pollutant that irritates the respiratory system and is

Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). These regulations are applied to industrial facilities, on-road and off-road mobile sources and smaller area sources such as auto painting shops and dry cleaners.

Large trucks and buses emit large quantities of pollutants, but they are

not included in the program for two reasons. First, they emit relatively low amounts of the volatile organic compounds that form ground-level **ozone**, which is the air quality problem of most concern in St. Louis.

Also, many of these vehicles are transient in nature and impossible to regulate at the state level. The federal

government

is setting standards for new manufactured and rebuilt diesel engines and standards to make diesel fuel cleaner.

Although motorists can still repair their own vehicles or have repairs

done where they choose, special training is available for repair technicians throughout the region. Those who complete the training are "recognized repair technicians" listed in a booklet provided to motorists whose vehicles fail a test. The shop's labor charges may be counted toward the spending requirements for a waiver. The waiver is issued only if the vehicle fails a retest and valid emission repairs and expenditures have been made. By repairing their vehicles, owners not only make a significant contribution to protecting the air we breathe, but they also ensure that their vehicles will run better, last longer and use less gasoline, saving motorists money in the long run.

Emissions testing by the Gateway Clean Air Program has been designed to double the emission reductions of the previous program while providing the greatest possible convenience to the public. Each month the program has performed about 50,000 station-based tests and mailed approximately 60,000 RapidScreen notices.

While RapidScreen is a phone and mail-in system, the department has added capabilities at the stations to process motorists who have passed RapidScreen. This, along with other improvements in efficiency, has made long waits rare, even at the end of the month. Most motorist wait less than 15 minutes.

For more information about the Gateway Clean Air Program, visit the program's Web site at [www.gatewaycleanair.com]. St. Louis area motorists also may call toll free 1-888-748-1AIR (1247).



particularly harmful to children, the elderly and anyone working or exercising outdoors. Getting control of the St. Louis **ozone** problem requires cutting down the emissions of major and minor sources of harmful